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Visual Ranking

1. The Visual Ranking tool facilitates critical thinking by creating and comparing ordered lists. By prioritizing and comparing items with other groups it makes similarities and differences stand out. The ability to see our organized lists, to move items top to bottom in order of importance, gives the user the chance to evaluate the items, make judgments and think about their importance and adjust them easily. It allows students to show reasoning and then discuss the differences in conclusions with others. Comparing correlations with other groups ignites interest and group interaction.

2. Key Steps –

- Set up a project in the teacher workspace.

- Introduce students to the activity and prompt them to brainstorm a list.

- Guide students in collapsing the list to 8-10 items

- Write the list in a document and create the list in the Visual Ranking Tool with a simple copy and paste into the Inventions project.

- Create team ID’s and passwords

- Facilitate discussion about the criteria for ranking

- Students get to look at each other’s thinking and compare lists

- Assess results and provide feedback, give class averages, show correlations

Succinct list of steps

3. The VR tool would be useful in:

- Helping students build a lexicon for a chosen subject, activity or occupation.

- As a secondary Language Arts teacher I could see the benefits of using the VR tool to engage students in class by giving them some “power” over the syllabus. Letting them decide as a class, the majority, what books to read or assignments that they would most like to do.

- To evaluate a text, list important qualities and analyze characters, plot.

- Students could write and create different outcomes for stories or characters.

- Interpreting ideas and events and gain perspective through other student’s points of view.

- To focus attention on specific questions that help in understanding broader abstract ideas.

- Keeping students engaged by sharing ideas, debating differences, ultimately learning to work together. Also justifying their reasoning is an important critical thinking skill.

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